

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of November 5, 2003 has been received and its contents reviewed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration given to the above-identified application.

By this Amendment, claim 18 has been amended to correct a typographical error, and claims 10 and 28 have been previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 11-17 and 29-38 are pending for consideration, of which claims 1, 7, 13, 17, 19, 25, 31 and 35 are independent. By the actions above and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims.

Referring now to the detailed Office Action, claims 1-38 [*sic* claims 1-9, 11-27 and 29-38] are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto (USP 5,323,042) in view of Adachi et al. (USP 5,631,664) and Asars (USP 4,114,070). In view of the comments provided below, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Matsumoto is directed to an active liquid crystal display having a peripheral driving circuit element (Abstract). Adachi is directed to a display device employing electrical light-emitting surface light source elements (Abstract). Asars is directed to an electro optic display panel in which thin film electronic circuitry is associated with individual display medium elements (Abstract).

In contrast, the present invention is directed to an active matrix display device as set forth in independent claim 1, for example. The display device comprises a substrate having an insulating surface, a plurality of pixel electrodes arranged in a matrix form over the substrate, and a plurality of switching elements operationally connected to the pixel electrodes. Each of the switching elements further comprise a thin film transistor. The display device further includes a display medium comprising an emissive material that is capable of electrically changing luminous strength disposed at each of the pixel electrodes, and a driver circuit that includes a plurality of thin film transistors for driving the plurality of switching elements. Each of the plurality of thin film transistors comprise a crystallized semiconductor layer, a gate insulating film adjacent to the crystallized semiconductor layer and a gate electrode adjacent to the gate insulating film. Applicants submit that the combination of references does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the currently pending claims.

To that end, the Office Action indicates that Matsumoto does not teach a display medium comprising an emissive material and capable of electrically changing luminous strength disposed at each of said pixel electrodes. Adachi is employed to show a preference for EL or electroluminescence material which is an “emissive material” over liquid crystal material. Finally, Asars is employed in the rejection to further allegedly show that, with regard to EL and LCD material, the basic electronic circuitry for both panels is essentially the same. The Office Action further indicates that “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Matsumoto display medium to be EL instead of LC because Adachi et al. provided the suggestion and motivation to substitute EL for LC (see column 1, lines 37-66) and still further Asars provided the “reasonable expectation of success” in making the change (see Asars col 2, lines 50-53).” Applicants respectfully traverse this line of reasoning and submit that the teachings of Matsumoto, Adachi and Asars cannot be combined, in the manner described in the Office Action, to achieve the presently claimed invention.

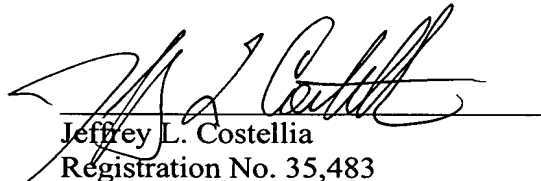
Without addressing more specifically the disclosures of Matsumoto and Adachi, the current rejection appears to rely upon Asars’ disclosure to provide a motivation for combining the basic teachings of Matsumoto and Adachi based on the Examiner’s belief that Asars indicates that the electronic control circuitry of the display device is essentially the same for EL as it is for LCD. However, a fair reading of the Asars patent does not support this contention. Specifically, the Asars patent, in describing FIGs 2 and 3, is not comparing an EL device to an LCD device. Instead, **both** the prior art device (FIG. 2) and the Asars’ inventive device (FIG. 3) are directed to EL devices. Applicants’ position is supported by the “EL CELL” label shown in FIG. 2 of Asars and the ^CEL notation illustrated in FIG. 3. Since both circuits described in FIGs 2 and 3 are directed to EL devices, it would naturally follow that, for **two EL** devices, “[t]he basic electronic control circuitry for both panels is essentially the same” as described in col. 2, lines 50-53 of Asars. However, Applicants submit that the Asars patent provides no motivation for the modification of the Matsumoto patent in view of the Adachi patent.

Moreover, while the combination of Matsumoto and Adachi may show one of ordinary skill that EL is preferred over liquid crystal systems, there certainly is no motivation supporting (technically or otherwise) such a transformation. Applicants note that where the

prior art provides “only general guidance and is not specific as to the particular form of the invention or how to achieve it, [such a suggestion] may make an approach ‘obvious to try,’ but it does not make the invention obvious.” Ex parte Obukowicz, 27 USPQ2d, 1063, 1065 (U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Board of Appeals and Interferences, 1992) and In re O’Farrell, 7 USPQ2d 1673, 1681 (Fed. Cir. 1988). In the present Application, the Examiner has failed to establish the required *prima facie* case of obviousness. Accordingly, since the cited references fail to teach, suggest or disclose each and every claimed feature, the references can not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants’ representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



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